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**From:** CN=Dave Kluesner/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US  
**Sent:** Tue 6/19/2012 1:36:54 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: The Record: Some toxic mud to be removed from river  
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----- Forwarded by Dave Kluesner/R2/USEPA/US on 06/19/2012 09:34 AM -----

**From:** "Anderson, Brian" <AndersonB@northjersey.com>  
**To:** Dave Kluesner/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Date:** 06/19/2012 09:24 AM  
**Subject:** RE: The Record: Some toxic mud to be removed from river

Got it, thanks. I might write something on it next week.

Brian

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From: Dave Kluesner [mailto:Kluesner.Dave@epamail.epa.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 8:59 AM  
To: Anderson, Brian  
Subject: The Record: Some toxic mud to be removed from river

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/159528375\\_Some\\_toxic\\_mud\\_to\\_be\\_removed\\_from\\_river.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/159528375_Some_toxic_mud_to_be_removed_from_river.html)

Some toxic mud to be removed from river  
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012  
BY SCOTT FALLON  
STAFF WRITER  
THE RECORD

PRINT | E-MAIL

A group of companies suspected of polluting the Passaic River will pay \$20 million to clean up the dioxin-laden mudflats near the banks of Lyndhurst under an agreement announced Monday by federal regulators.

Only 13 percent of the estimated 120,000 cubic yards of polluted mud will be dredged from the river, but officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency say it will include the most highly contaminated sediment.

The cleanup plan calls for the first 2 feet of mud to be scooped from the surface of a 5-acre area. The remainder will be capped with a combination of sand, gravel and carbon until an investigation of the contamination in the 17-mile lower portion of the river is completed in two years by 70 local companies known as the Lower Passaic Cooperating Parties Group.

The agreement between the EPA and the companies "will reduce exposure of people and wildlife to the highly toxic contaminants in the Passaic River sediment and keep it from spreading to other parts of the river," said Judith Enck, the agency's regional administrator for New York and New Jersey.

Environmentalists say the cleanup plan is fine for now, but they want to see all of the contamination removed eventually.

"It's not ideal, but it's the best [the EPA] can get right now," said Debbie Mans, head of the advocacy group NY/NJ Baykeeper and a member of the Passaic River Community Advisory Group. "By no means is this a permanent solution."

That point of view was also shared by Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr., D-Paterson, who said Monday he wants the EPA to ensure that "all of the 120,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment be removed."

The contamination was discovered late last year where the river — a federal Superfund site that stretches from the Dundee Dam in Garfield to Newark — makes a sharp bend just south of Route 3.

Dioxin levels reached 21,000 parts per trillion, the highest ever recorded at the surface of the Passaic's riverbed. Dioxin is one of the world's most toxic industrial chemicals and a known carcinogen. There are also high levels of mercury and PCBs in the mudflats.

Although that portion of the river is often used by crew teams as well as training sessions for fire department scuba teams, EPA officials say they don't see any immediate health risks. The agency said dioxin levels in nearby Riverside Park are not high enough to harm health.

The 70 companies are in the middle of a large-scale investigation of pollution in the river.

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